

Responsibility

By Ralph Plumpton and Nathan Schultz

“Professionalism is an important aspect in the classroom because the students will take you more seriously if you act professionally,” –Wade Morrill

Responsibility in the classroom is a key to success while in the field. A good, proficient and responsible teacher can lead their students to success. As a teacher you are in charge of many individual and diverse students, and you are thus responsible for their education both inside and outside of the classroom. A good teacher always is responsible, and that is the theme of this chapter. We will go over the different ways and areas a teacher must be responsible in



Section One: Professional Responsibilities of a teacher

A teacher has many responsibilities. Professionalism is one of them. A teacher should always be as professional as possible. A good teacher earns respect from their students, and one way to earn this is by being as professional as possible.



A teacher should always come in dressed in a very professional manner that shows that they take their job seriously. A student is more apt to listen and take seriously a teacher that dresses in a respectful and professional manner. However professionalism does not end at simple dress codes, it also is all about the attitude of the teacher as well.

A teacher's attitude can make or break any learning experience. A teacher should always have a very professional attitude while in the classroom. This does not mean a teacher is strict, hard, un-emotional or anything of this manner. It simply means that the teacher should show that they care about the subject and the students and their learning experience. This means a teacher can have fun with the students but does not let the students take over the classroom. Attitude can make or break this.

When a teacher does not have a professional attitude, shows they don't care, lets the students take over the class, etc. then the learning experience is lost. It is thus once again a teacher's responsibility to be as professional as possible. Being professional is an expected responsibility in many other jobs, so it should be expected in a job as important as teaching. A professional teacher recognizes that not just attitude, but the idea of being a "lifelong learner" is another professional responsibility they have.

Any teacher that believes they have learned everything they can or never changes what they do over time falls into the wrong type of attitude and thus is not meeting their responsibility to be professional. As teachers we must understand that we are "lifelong learners". We are always learning new things, whether it is new facts about our subject, new ways to teach our students and so on we will always learn new things. A professional teacher

sees and understands this and incorporates new ideas and plans into their lessons. Teachers are ever evolving and changing the way they teach to meet the needs of their students. Professional and responsible teachers do this because they understand that things are always changing and nothing stays the same forever, thus the professional and responsible thing to do is to adapt and evolve the way we teach over time as we learn new ideas.

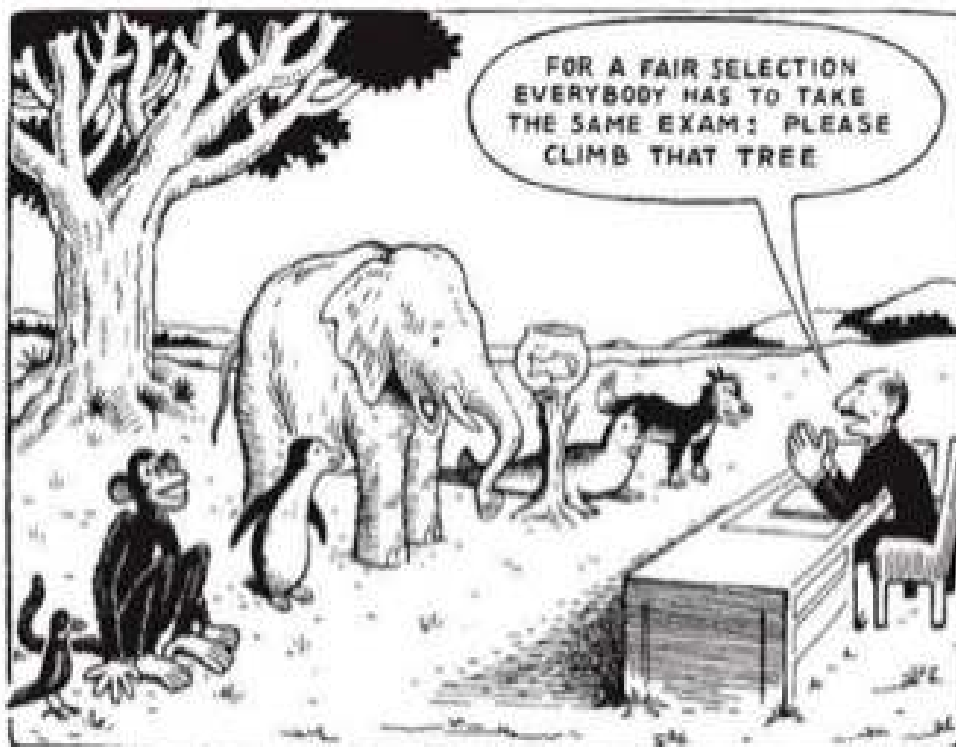
Overall professionalism is a major part in a teacher's responsibility. Professional teachers "dress for success", they come in with good, professional attitudes, and they always adapt and change their style as they are "lifelong learners". Our next section, however is about responsibility the teacher has to their students, which is a crucial part.

Section Two: Teachers Responsibilities to the Students



Teachers have many responsibilities to their students, from proper grading to fair and equal treatment, the list is quite large. In this section we will cover what we feel are the bigger parts. One of those is the fair treatment of their students.

A responsible teacher is always sure to be fair and equal in their treatment of all of their students. A teacher should never favor one student over other students. The other students would feel unappreciated and will stop caring about their learning. A responsible teacher gives everyone a chance to answer and display their knowledge in the task. A good, responsible teacher also does not hold a bias towards particular students for any reason, and instead always is open to their situation and gives them a fair chance in all situations. Responsible teachers must also formulate their lessons, assignments and exams to give a fair chance to all of their students. They should also give fair grades.



Another responsibility of a teacher is to properly grade their students. There should be no bias's attached to the grading. A responsible teacher will take into account the students work and not play favorites or let their own feelings towards a student get in the way of grades. Grades is a very tough area to do fairly since we must take not only the effort done but if the information is correct and done well. But a responsible teacher will always grade fairly.

Our last section is on Appropriate Rules and Consequences, which is something a responsible teacher will have done correctly.

Section Three: Appropriate Rules and Consequences

Responsibility as a teacher not only means being professional and how you treat your students, but also the kinds of rules and consequences you establish from the beginning. A responsible teacher will make the rules fair for everyone, with no bias towards anyone and will make sure that none of the rules works against any students do to disabilities or cultural background. Rules are meant to be guidelines for the students, and a responsible teacher will make sure the rules are not unfair in anyway shape or form and that the rules are there to simply help the students along their educational careers.

Consequences are also a huge part. They should be fair and just, and explained at the beginning so students understand them. A responsible teacher would make sure the consequences are not there to scare the students, but rather to reinforce good values and let the students understand the importance and value of their work. A responsible teacher also makes sure the consequences are not biased or unfair to those with disabilities or certain cultural backgrounds.

In conclusion, responsibility is a major part of the teaching career. Whether it is professionalism or for the students, responsibility plays a role in all areas of teaching.

Bibliography: Print Sources

1. Strube, M. J. (1991). Some Rules for Effective and Ineffective Teaching: Generating Lists as an Educational Exercise. *Teaching Of Psychology*, 18(3), 174.
2. Erdogan, M., Kursun, E., Sisman, G., Saltan, F., Gok, A., & Yildiz, I. (2010). A Qualitative Study on Classroom Management and Classroom Discipline Problems, Reasons, and Solutions: A Case of Information Technologies Class. *Educational Sciences: Theory And Practice*, 10(2), 881-891.
3. Sherman, S. (2004). Responsiveness in Teaching: Responsibility in Its Most Particular Sense. *Educational Forum*, 68(2), 115-124.
4. Tormen, Faith. (2011) *The Responsibility Education of Teacher Candidates*

Bibliography: Online Sources

1. <http://sites.temple.edu/edresources/ofp/student-teaching/student-teachers/st-roles-responsibilities/>
2. <http://www.education.ne.gov/BMIT/pdf/EstablishingClassroomRulesandConsequences.pdf>
3. <http://www.smartclassroommanagement.com/category/classroom-management-strategies/rules-and-consequences-classroom-management-strategies/>
4. <http://www.ocdsb.ca/sta/ntip/Survival%20Tips%20docs/3Classroom%20Management.pdf>

Pictures

<http://www.midkent.ac.uk/blog/wp-content/uploads/tree.jpg>

http://www.eduguide.org/img/cache/xl_content/uploads/content_images/istock_iofoto-6-elementary-age-boy-with-teacher-in-classroom-c.jpg

http://mentalitch.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/iStock_000010391672Large.jpg

<http://www.mrsbergersonskindergarten.com/resources/character/responsibility%20icon.jpg>

Interview

Morrill, Wade. Middle School Health Teacher